

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A thermal development apparatus includes a heating drum and rollers. The heating drum with a smooth layer having an arc shaped portion of an outer circumferential surface heats and carries photothermographic imaging material being in contact with the arc-shaped portion, and opposed rollers arranged in line along a carrying path of the material presses the material to the outer circumferential surface of the arc-shaped portion. When  $R$  (mm) denotes radius of arc-shaped portion,  $r$  (mm) denotes radius of opposed rollers,  $\alpha$  (degree) denotes angle between lines respectively connecting center of arc-shaped portion and centers of two opposed rollers adjacent to each other,  $P$  (mm) denotes pitch of opposed rollers, and  $\beta$  (degree) denotes contact angle of material to opposed roller,  $P = 2\pi R\alpha/360$ ,  $2r + 3 \geq P > 2r$ , and  $\beta \leq 60$  are satisfied.